- Steps have been taken to control pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.
- Twenty four critically polluted areas have been identified and Action Plans have been prepared for all the 24 areas for implementation by the various state Pollution Control Boards under the supervision of Central Pollution Control Board.
- Import of toxic waste is regulated under the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and its amendment, 2000 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Environmental guidelines for siting and operation of industries have been brought out.
- Environmental clearance is made mandatory for 29 categories of developmental projects involving public hearing/NGO participation as an important component of EIA process.
- Environmental Epidemiological studies have been initiated in the different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures.
- For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards, introduction of unleaded petrol in major cities, installation of catalytic converters, introduction of low sulphur fuels and improvement in the fuel quality have been undertaken.
- A scheme for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) in cluster of small scale industrial units has been taken up. 91 CETP projects have been taken up.

Import of Plastic Wastes

2113. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of plastic wastes is increasing in our country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Justice R.N. Misra Committee has recommended a ban on the import of plastic wastes; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to check environmental hazards to health by plastic wastes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per the information made available by the Director General of Foreign Trade, following are the quantities under Article code 3915—Waste, parings and scrap of plastics imported from April 1998 to September, 2001:

April, 1998-March, 1999	—	54,381 Tonnes
April, 1999-March, 2000	—	52,247 Tonnes
April, 2000-March, 2001	—	66,089 Tonnes
April, 2001-September, 2001	—	45,389 Tonnes

(b) The Justice R.N. Misra Committee has recommended that "Import of plastics wastes should be banned and the Government may formulate the policy accordingly".

(c) The under mentioned rules have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 *inter-alia*, to check environmental hazards to health by plastics wastes:

(i) Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999.

(ii) Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000.

In addition to these, a Public Notice No. 392 (PN)/92-97 dated 1st January, 1997 laying down the procedure relating to import of plastic waste and scrap has also been published by the Director General of Foreign Trade.

Environment Clearance of Tourism Project in Gujarat

2114. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tourism project of Gujarat is pending environmental clearance by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the project proposal was received by Government;

(d) the reasons for delay in clearance; and

(e) by when the project is likely to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) State Government has informed that no tourist project has been submitted by them to the Central Government for environmental clearance.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.